

THREE CASES OF SCIATICA TREATED BY NERVE-STRETCHING are reported by Dr. Robert P. Robins, of Philadelphia. All three made a good recovery, and had continued well till the time of writing.—*The Medical News*, Sept. 29, 1883.

THE EFFECTS OF THE SUBCUTANEOUS STRETCHING OF THE SCIATIC NERVE IN TABES.—Lépine discusses the effects of the above-named procedure. Its results are uncertain. The best that can be said is that it is without danger.—*Compt. rend. hebdom. des séanc. de la soc. de biol.*, Paris, 1883, No. 10, p. 194.

TETANUS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY CURARE AND CHLORAL.—Dr. Hjorst reports the history of a case of tetanus occurring in a child three years of age, the result of a crush of the leg. Morphine and chloral at first gave relief, but the disease continued, and on the twenty-fifth day the case seemed hopeless. It was then decided to give hypodermically an injection of curare .001 grm. (gr. $\frac{1}{84}$), which was repeated at the end of three hours increased to .002 grm. (gr. $\frac{1}{42}$), which gave decided relief. The next morning an injection of .0015 grm. ($\frac{1}{8}$ gr.) was given; the patient was decidedly more comfortable; chloral was again given by the rectum at night. The next day patient was much better and had spontaneous diuresis; convalescence gradually became established.—*Norsk Magaz. für Lægeev.*, B. xii, Heft 8; *Centralblatt f Chirurg*, No. 22, 1883.

SERPENT VENOM AS A REMEDIAL AGENT IN TETANUS.—Dr. A. O. Ameden relates a snake story. A healthy man of twenty-five years received a punctured wound of the foot, which was followed by tetanus. All other remedies failing, Dr. A. procured some serpent venom from the rattlesnake. He moistened the point of his hypodermic syringe with this and inserted it beneath the skin. The symptoms rapidly ameliorated but returned in thirty hours, when a fresh injection was made. The patient finally recovered.—*The Medical News*, September 29, 1883.

UPON THE APPLICATION OF THE ACTUAL CAUTERY IN THE TREATMENT OF SPASM.—Dr. Luigi M. Petrone (who has cured old cases of anterior poliomyelitis with strychnine) reports his success with the actual cautery in seven cases of clonic and tonic spasm. Petrone applies the thermo-cautery generally along the spine at about the origin of the affected nerves. He makes deep cauterizations four to six inches long, then applies ice for an hour. After the eschar has fallen off, he applies an irritating ointment and excites suppuration. The cases treated were those of trismus (1), facial spasm (1) (here the cautery was applied over to the cervical spine), torticollis (3), of the median nerve (1), of the sciatic (1). Similar cases reported by Busen and Westphal

are referred to.—*Arch. ital. per le mal. nerv. ed. alien. mentale*, xx, 1 e 2, p. 55, 1883.

THE TREATMENT OF TREMOR.—According to M. Feris, of Brest, veratria has the property of causing various kinds of tremor to disappear, and that in the space of ten days or a fortnight. It has been employed in disseminated sclerosis, alcoholism, and adynamic states. The dose is four pills per diem, each containing half a milligramme of the alkaloid.—*Medical Record*.

STRYCHNINE IN INFANTILE PARALYSIS.—Dr. Luigi Petrone, has successfully used strychnine in anterior poliomyelitis in children. He reports two cases of several years' standing rapidly cured by giving pills of strychnine (gr. $\frac{1}{2}$) twice a day.—*Gaz. med. ital. provincie venele*, No. 22, 1883.

FAILURE OF SPECIFIC TREATMENT IN LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—At a meeting of the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux, in July, M. Dujardin-Beaumetz called attention to the fact that specific medication, almost without exception, fails in the treatment of tabes, even when a history of syphilis exists. M. Fournier had seen one or two successful cases, but the speaker had seen none. Yet the per cent. of syphilitic ataxics was said to be from eighty-five to ninety.—*L'union médicale*, p. 595, 1883.

THE TREATMENT OF TABES DORSALIS.—M. Hardy has an article upon this subject. In the first rank of remedies he places potassium iodide and nitrate of silver, which he uses alternately. All other internal remedies, he thinks, are valueless. Of external remedies he values baths first, revulsives next. Electricity is not to be depended upon.—*Gazette des hôpitaux*, No. 84, 1883.

DIVISION OF THE MEATUS URINARIUS FOR THE RELIEF OF PSEUDO-LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.—Dr. F. N. Otis reported the history of a patient suffering from incontinence of urine and motor disturbances in the lower extremities. The case had been diagnosed one of locomotor ataxia by a prominent New York neurologist. Dr. Otis recognized contraction of the meatus urinarius, and divided it, with the effect of producing almost immediate relief from the urinary symptoms. There was no history of syphilis, but he gave the iodide of potassium, and within a short time the man began to show decided improvement in the motor symptoms, and was at present almost perfectly well, and able to attend to his business as a gentleman farmer. Dr. Otis remarked that he had never failed in such cases to produce benefit by the division of the strictured meatus if it existed. The case reported was probably not one of locomotor ataxia.—*N. Y. Medical Journal*, Oct. 20, 1883.